REMARKS

The following remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed 10/31/2005. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Office Action Summary

Claims 1-3, 6-15, 18-20, 26-30, 32-45, 48-49, 51-55, and 57-58 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,366,582 of Nishikado et al. ("Nishikado").

Claims 16, 31, 46, 50 and 56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,366,582 of Nishikado in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,275,493 of Morris et al.

Claims 4-5 and 17, 21-25, and 47 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-58 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 27, 34, 37, 40, 44, 52 and 58 have been amended. The amended claims are supported by the specification. No claims have been added or canceled. No new matter has been added. Applicant reserves all rights with respect to the doctrine of equivalents.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 1-3, 6-15, 18-20, 26-30, 32-45, 48-49, 51-55, and 57-58 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nishikado. Applicant has amended the subject claims to include limitations not disclosed in Nishikado.

Claims 1-3

As amended, claim 1 recites:

A method comprising:
  clearing a plurality of first connections in bulk between a first node and a second node of an ATM network from the first node; and
  for each said clearing, **sending a first message on a network trunk connecting the first node and the second node**, the first message comprising a single **bulk release message** from the first node to the second node containing an identification of the first connections.

(emphasis added).

Nishikado discloses "a network management unit in a communication network connected to connection switching exchanges of the communications network by operation control communication lines." (Nishikado, col. 5, lines 29-32).

As shown in **Figure 1** of Nishikado, the network management unit **13** is connected to connection switching exchanges (network nodes) **1** by an operation control network **14** of operation-control communication lines **15**. The operation control network **14** is a star network that connects the network management unit **13** to every node **1**, but does not provide any connections from node-to-node. In Nishikado, all connection setup and release messages are sent between the network management unit **13** and the network nodes **1** over the operation control network **14**. In Nishikado, network traffic is carried over communication lines (network trunks) **2** that provide connections from node to node. (Nishikado, col. 13, lines 1-24; Fig. 1).

Therefore, the network trunks of Nishikado do not carry connection release messages and Nishikado does not disclose "sending a first [bulk release] message on a network trunk connecting the first node and the second node" as recited in amended claim 1. Applicant submits, therefore, that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Nishikado.

Given that claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 either directly or indirectly, and include all of the limitations of claim 1, applicant submits that claims 2 and 3 are also not anticipated by Nishikado.

Claims 6-8

As amended, claim 6 recites:

A method comprising:
receiving a first message comprising a single **bulk release message** by a first node of an ATM network from a second node of the ATM network connected to the first node by at least one first connections, **wherein the first message is received on a network trunk connecting the first node and the second node**;
clearing the first connections from the second node in bulk in response to receiving the first message; and
sending a second message from the first node to the second node on the network trunk connecting the first node and the second node, the second message_identifying at least one of the first connections cleared from the second node and the first message.

(emphasis added).

As noted above, Nishikado does not disclose sending or receiving release messages over network trunks between nodes. Therefore, Nishikado does not disclose a method "wherein the first [bulk release] message is received on a

network trunk connecting the first node and the second node," as recited in amended claim 6. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 6, as amended, is not anticipated by Nishikado.

Given that claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 6 either directly or indirectly, and include all of the limitations of claim 6, applicant submits that claims 7 and 8 are also not anticipated by Nishikado.

Claims 9-15, 18-20 and 26

As amended, claim 9 recites:

> A method of clearing a plural number of connections between a first node and a second node in an Asynchronous Transfer Mode network including:
> **sending at least one first message comprising a single bulk release message from the first node to the second node on a network trunk connecting the first node and the second node**, each first message including an identification of at least one of
> each of a plural number of first connections to be cleared in bulk from the second node by the first message, and
> each of a plural number of first connections that is one of cleared from the first node and to be cleared from the first node.

(emphasis added).

As noted above, Nishikado does not disclose sending or receiving release messages over network trunks between nodes. Therefore, Nishikado does not disclose a method including "sending at least one first message comprising a single bulk release message from the first node to the second node on a network trunk connecting the first node and the second node," as recited in amended

claim 9. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 9, as amended, is not anticipated by Nishikado.

Given that claims 10-15, 18-20 and 26 depend from claim 9 either directly or indirectly, and include all of the limitations of claim 9, applicant submits that claims 10-15, 18-20 and 26 are also not anticipated by Nishikado.

Claims 27-30, 32 and 33

As amended, claim 27 recites:

> An Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) node that includes
> a first circuit that generates an inter-nodal call control first message comprising a single **bulk release message** containing an identification of at least one of
> each of a plural number of first connections to be cleared in bulk at an ATM first node to be coupled to the ATM node, and
> each of a plural number of first connections that is one of cleared from the ATM node and
> to be cleared from the ATM node; and
> **a second circuit to transmit the first message to the first node on an inter-nodal trunk connecting the ATM node and the ATM first node.**

(emphasis added).

As noted above, Nishikado does not disclose sending or receiving release messages over network trunks between nodes. Therefore, Nishikado does not disclose an ATM node that includes "a second circuit to transmit the first [bulk release] message to the first node on an inter-nodal trunk connecting the ATM node and the ATM first node," as recited in amended claim 27. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 27, as amended, is not anticipated by Nishikado.

Given that claims 28-30, 32 and 33 depend from claim 27 either directly or indirectly, and include all of the limitations of claim 27, applicant submits that claims 28-30, 32 and 33 are also not anticipated by Nishikado.

Claims 34-36

As amended, claim 34 recites:

> An Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) node that includes
>   a first circuit to receive and interpret a **first message comprising a single bulk release message** from a first ATM node that contains an identification of a plural number of first connections, **wherein the first message is received on a network trunk connecting the ATM node and the first ATM node**; and
>   a second circuit to clear the first connections in bulk from the ATM node.

(emphasis added).

As noted above, Nishikado does not disclose sending or receiving release messages over network trunks between nodes. Therefore, Nishikado does not disclose an ATM node "wherein the first [bulk release] message is received on a network trunk connecting the ATM node and the first ATM node," as recited in amended claim 34. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 34, as amended, is not anticipated by Nishikado.

Given that claims 35 and 36 depend from claim 34 either directly or indirectly, and include all of the limitations of claim 34, applicant submits that claims 35 and 36 are also not anticipated by Nishikado.

<u>Claims 37-39</u>

As amended, claim 37 recites:

> A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by at least one processor, cause said processor to perform operations comprising **receiving an inter-nodal message on a network trunk comprising a single bulk release message by an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) node** that includes a plurality of identified connections to clear from the node.

(emphasis added).

As noted above, Nishikado does not disclose sending or receiving release messages over network trunks between nodes. Therefore, Nishikado does not disclose operations comprising "receiving an inter-nodal message on a network trunk comprising a single bulk release message by an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) node," as recited in amended claim 37. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 37, as amended, is not anticipated by Nishikado.

Given that claims 38 and 39 depend from claim 37 either directly or indirectly, and include all of the limitations of claim 37, applicant submits that claims 38 and 39 are also not anticipated by Nishikado.

<u>Claims 40-43</u>

As amended, claim 40 recites:

> A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by at least one processor, cause said processor to perform operations comprising transmitting an inter-nodal first message comprising a single **bulk release message** by an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) first node to an ATM second node in response to a reception by the first node of an inter-nodal second message from the second node identifying a plural number of connections to clear from the first node that includes

an identification of the plural number of connections, **wherein the inter-nodal first message is transmitted on a network trunk connecting the first node and the second node**, and wherein the inter-nodal second message is received on the network trunk connecting the first node and the second node.

(emphasis added).

As noted above, Nishikado does not disclose sending or receiving release messages over network trunks between nodes. Therefore, Nishikado does not disclose operations "wherein the inter-nodal first [bulk release] message is transmitted on a network trunk connecting the first node and the second node," as recited in amended claim 40. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 40, as amended, is not anticipated by Nishikado.

Given that claims 41-43 depend from claim 40 either directly or indirectly, and include all of the limitations of claim 40, applicant submits that claims 41-43 are also not anticipated by Nishikado.

Claims 44, 45, 48, 49 and 51

As amended, claim 44 recites:

> A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by at least one processor, cause said processor to perform operations comprising **preparing at least one first message comprising a single bulk release message to be sent from a first node of an ATM network to a second node of an ATM network on a network trunk connecting the first node and the second node**, each first message including an identification of a first connections to be cleared in bulk from the second node by the first message.

(emphasis added).

As noted above, Nishikado does not disclose sending or receiving release messages over network trunks between nodes. Therefore, Nishikado does not disclose operations comprising "preparing at least one first message comprising a single bulk release message to be sent from a first node of an ATM network to a second node of an ATM network on a network trunk connecting the first node and the second node," as recited in amended claim 44. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 44, as amended, is not anticipated by Nishikado.

Given that claims 45, 48, 49 and 51 depend from claim 44 either directly or indirectly, and include all of the limitations of claim 44, applicant submits that claims 45, 48, 49 and 51 are also not anticipated by Nishikado.

Claims 52-55, 57 and 58

As amended, claim 52 recites:

> An Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) node that includes
> means for generating an inter-nodal call control first message type comprising a single **bulk release message** that is to identify at least one of each of a plural number of first connections to be cleared in bulk at an ATM first node coupled to the ATM node, and each of a plural number of first connections that is one of cleared from the ATM node and to be cleared from the ATM node; and
> **means for transmitting the first message to the first node on a network trunk connecting the ATM node and the ATM first node.**

(emphasis added).

As noted above, Nishikado does not disclose sending or receiving release messages over network trunks between nodes. Therefore, Nishikado does not disclose an ATM node that includes "means for transmitting the first [bulk

release] message to the first node on a network trunk connecting the ATM node and the ATM first node," as recited in amended claim 52. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 52, as amended, is not anticipated by Nishikado.

Given that claims 53-55, 57 and 58 depend from claim 52 either directly or indirectly, and include all of the limitations of claim 52, applicant submits that claims 53-55, 57 and 58 are also not anticipated by Nishikado.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 16, 31, 46, 50 and 56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishikado in view of Morris. Applicant submits that each of claims 16, 31, 46, 50 and 56 are patentable over the cited references because Nishikado and Morris, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every limitation in the subject claims.

<u>Claim 16</u>

Claim 16 depends indirectly from independent claim 9 and includes all of the limitations of claim 9. As noted above, Nishikado does not disclose the limitation "sending at least one first message comprising a single bulk release message from the first node to the second node on a network trunk connecting the first node and the second node," as recited in amended claim 9.

Morris is directed to network control at ingress and egress points (gateways) of an ATM network. Morris discloses a switched virtual circuit (SVC) control agent which is responsible for call setup and release at ingress/egress points external to the ATM network, in response to requests from external

communication applications at other ingress/egress points external to the network. (Morris, col. 3, lines 19-21; col. 6, lines 5-9; Figs. 2, 3). Morris does not disclose the transmission of bulk release messages from node to node within the network or any inner workings of the network at all.

Therefore, Morris does not disclose the limitation "sending at least one first message comprising a single bulk release message from the first node to the second node on a network trunk connecting the first node and the second node." Applicant submits, therefore, that the combination of Nishikado and Morris does not teach or suggest the subject limitation and that claim 16 is, therefore, patentable over the cited references.

Claim 31

Claim 31 depends indirectly from claim 27 and includes all of the limitations of claim 27. As noted above, Nishikado does not disclose the limitation "a second circuit to transmit the first [bulk release] message to the first node on an inter-nodal trunk connecting the ATM node and the ATM first node," as recited in amended claim 27.

As noted above, Morris does not disclose the transmission of bulk release messages from node to node within the network or any inner workings of the network at all. Therefore, Morris does not disclose the limitation "a second circuit to transmit the first [bulk release] message to the first node on an inter-nodal trunk connecting the ATM node and the ATM first node."

Applicant submits, therefore, that the combination of Nishikado and Morris does not teach or suggest the subject limitation and that claim 31 is, therefore, patentable over the cited references.

Claims 46 and 50

Claims 46 and 50 depend indirectly from claim 44 and include all of the limitations of claim 44. As noted above, Nishikado does not disclose operations comprising "preparing at least one first message comprising a single bulk release message to be sent from a first node of an ATM network to a second node of an ATM network on a network trunk connecting the first node and the second node," as recited in amended claim 44.

As noted above, Morris does not disclose the transmission of bulk release messages from node to node within the network or any inner workings of the network at all. Therefore, Morris does not disclose operations comprising "preparing at least one first message comprising a single bulk release message to be sent from a first node of an ATM network to a second node of an ATM network on a network trunk connecting the first node and the second node." Applicant submits, therefore, that the combination of Nishikado and Morris does not teach or suggest the subject limitation and that claims 46 and 50 are, therefore, patentable over the cited references.

Claim 56

Claim 56 depends indirectly from claim 52 and includes all of the limitations of claim 52. As noted above, Nishikado does not disclose an ATM node that includes "means for transmitting the first [bulk release] message to the

first node on a network trunk connecting the ATM node and the ATM first node,"
as recited in amended claim 52.

As noted above, Morris does not disclose the transmission of bulk release
messages from node to node within the network or any inner workings of the
network at all. Therefore, Morris does not disclose an ATM node that includes
"means for transmitting the first [bulk release] message to the first node on a
network trunk connecting the ATM node and the ATM first node."

Applicant submits, therefore, that the combination of Nishikado and Morris
does not teach or suggest the subject limitation and that claim 56 is, therefore,
patentable over the cited references.

Claim Objections

Claims 4-5, 17, 21-25, and 47 have been objected to as being dependent
upon rejected base claims. Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 1, claims 17 and
21-25 depend from claim 9 and claim 47 depends from claim 44. Applicants
submit that the objections to claims 4-5, 17, 21-25, and 47 are moot in view of
the amendments herein which have overcome the rejections of claims 1, 9 and
44.

Conclusion

In conclusion, applicants respectfully submit that in view of the arguments
and amendments set forth herein, the applicable objections and rejections have
been overcome.

If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Richard W. Thill at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Richard W. Thill
Reg. No. 53,686

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300